

BEES AND HONEY

Honey production from producers with five or more colonies in Kentucky during 1998 totaled 150,000 pounds, down 17 percent from 1997. Producers harvested honey from 3,000 colonies in 1998, unchanged from a year ago. Each colony produced an average of 50 pounds of honey during 1998, compared with 60 pounds per colony during 1997.

Prices for the 1998 honey crop averaged \$1.40 per pound, down 8 cents from the record high of \$1.48 received during 1997. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and co-ops. Kentucky producers had 51,000 pounds of honey for sale on December 15, 1998, compared with 54,000 pounds on hand the previous year.

United States honey production from producers with five or more colonies totaled 220 million pounds during 1998, 12 percent above 1997. There were 2.63 million colonies producing honey during 1998, up slightly from the previous year. Yield per colony averaged 83.7 pounds, up 9.0 pounds from the 1997 average. Producer honey stocks were 80.8 million pounds on December 15, 1998, 14 percent above the previous year. Prices for the 1998 crop averaged 65.5 cents per pound, down 13 percent from the 1997 level.

KENTUCKY NUMBER OF COLONIES, PRODUCTION, STOCKS AND VALUE 1975 - 1998 ^{1/}

Year	Number of Colonies	Yield per Colony	Production	Stocks Dec. 15	Average Price Per Pound	Value of Production
	(000)	(Pounds)	(000 Pounds)	(000 Pounds)	(Cents)	(000 Dollars)
1975	67	30	2010	271	73.4	1475
1976	60	20	1200	192	75.1	901
1977	53	22	1166	152	82.6	963
1978	46	23	1058	169	89.1	943
1979	52	33	1716	257	91.5	1570
1980	52	27	1404	216	95.3	1338
1981	56	21	1176	200	110.0	1294
1986 ^{2/}	15	15	225	86	98.0	221
1987	14	25	350	147	96.0	336
1988	12	40	480	202	106.0	509
1989	12	29	348	132	108.0	376
1990	8	44	352	127	92.0	324
1991	7	25	175	88	96.0	168
1992	4	30	120	54	74.0	89
1993	4	60	240	89	84.0	202
1994	3	54	162	57	98.0	159
1995	3	44	132	30	102.0	135
1996	3	60	180	23	127.0	229
1997	3	60	180	54	148.0	266
1998 ^{3/}	3	50	150	51	140.0	210

^{1/}Estimates discontinued 1982-1985. ^{2/}Beginning in 1986, estimates are for beekeepers with 5 or more hives; prior to 1986, estimates covered all beekeepers. ^{3/}Preliminary.